

Appln No. 10/760248
Amdt. Dated June 23, 2006
Response to Office Action of May 8, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of May 8, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claims 1 and 4 are further amended to clarify that the shield is arranged alongside a printing surface of the printhead so as to contact, and thereby protect the printhead from contact with, paper before the paper leaves the shield so as to pass the printing surface for printing. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 7, lines 5-18 and page 25, lines 9-15 and in Figs. 5 and 9 of the present application; and dependent claims 2 and 3 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application, nor any new issues to the prosecution of the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claims 1 and 4, and dependent claims 2 and 3, is not taught or suggested by previously Silverbrook et al. and Silverbrook in view of newly cited Moore (US 5,870,117), for at least the following reasons.

As discussed in the Applicant's Reply to the previous Office Action, the shield plate of Silverbrook et al. is assembled over the printing surface of the printhead segments 4, such that slots 6 are required in the shield plate so that the printhead segments may eject ink therethrough onto the passing media surface 2 (see col. 5, lines 2-67 and Fig. 1 of Silverbrook et al.), and the nozzle guard 43 of Silverbrook overlies the print chip surface 27 for protecting the print chips from dust and has micro-apertures 44 through which the print chips eject ink onto print media (see col. 5, lines 9-20 and col. 7, lines 3-16 and Fig. 9b of Silverbrook).

Independent claims 1 and 4 have been further amended to clarify this distinction from the present invention, in which the air coverplate 54 is positioned alongside the

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printhead chip surface 52 so as not to cover the surface but to contact the paper before it passes the surface so as to prevent direct contact of paper and/or dust/debris with the delicate nozzles of the printhead (see page 7, lines 5-18 and page 25, lines 9-15 and in Figs. 5 and 9 of the present application).

Newly cited Moore does provide any disclosure that would teach or suggest one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the shield plate of Silverbrook et al. or the nozzle guard of Silverbrook to omit this distinction.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claims 1 and 4, and dependent claims 2 and 3, is not taught or suggested by any one or more of Silverbrook et al., Silverbrook and Moore.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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